

Serial No.: 10/054,616
Filed: January 22, 2002

REMARKS

In response to the restriction requirement in the present application, Applicant elects Group II, Claims 18-22 and 49. Claims 1-17, 23-47, and 50-55 have been canceled as being directed to non-elected inventions. Claim 18 has been amended to be in independent form. New claims 56-60 have been added. The new claims find support in the specification as filed on page 30, paragraph 119.

Applicant notes that claim 48 of Group X, dependent on claim 19, is a linking claim and as such, Applicant requests this claim be examined in the present application along with Group II.

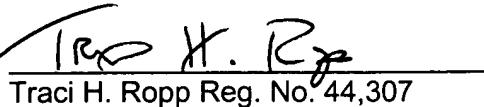
In response to the species election requirement, Applicant elects the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO: 7. This nucleic acid sequence corresponds to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1. This election is made without traverse, with the understanding that should allowable subject matter be found, Applicant is entitled to consideration of a generic claim encompassing additional species.

Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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